

Siskiyou County



Sheriff's Department

RICK RIGGINS

Sheriff

October 28, 2008

To the Honorable Chairman Bill Overman and
Members of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors
Courthouse
Yreka, CA 96097

Dear Chairman Overman and Members of the Board:

I submit for your consideration the following in response to the recommendations and requests of the 2007 Siskiyou County Grand Jury.

1. Address expansion plan for the jail.

The jail has explored both expanding the current jail and building a new facility at another location. The jail expansion was met with resistance from the neighborhood where the current jail is located. Jail staff also worked with the CAO's office to find a new location for a larger facility. This effort was unsuccessful due to water and sewer requirements, and the area needed for a new facility. The County was also going to apply to the state for grant funding to construct either the expansion of the current facility or a new facility but there were county funding and staffing issues that could not be met at this time.

2. The need for a visually clear barrier around the housing control station for officer safety.

The jail is exploring ways to mount a barrier system that will allow the housing officers to perform necessary functions and increase officer safety without the need for additional staff in the housing area. The jail is also exploring ways to finance this project.

3. Plan for installing recorded indirect video equipment for the visitation area.

The jail has requested and received information from vendors that provide this type of equipment. While these systems would work well to accomplish the goal of indirect visiting they are expensive and would require remodeling the jail. With the jail's current floor plan implementing this system would not decrease the need to move inmates or increase the visiting

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time for the inmates. This system would definitely be considered during any expansion or new facility projects in the future.

4. Sheriff to meet w/ CHP & Local Police Chiefs to discuss guidelines for chain of custody.

The jail does not have medical staff on site 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Jail staff currently performs a primary medical assessment on arrestees when they enter the facility and will not take custody of an arrestee until they are assured that the arrestee is medically safe to enter the facility. Custody of the arrestee is transferred from the arresting officer to the jail after the medical screening is completed, the arrestee is searched, and the necessary paperwork is completed by the arresting officer.

I meet monthly with agency heads from all Siskiyou County law enforcement agencies and will include this item in our discussions.

5. Enhancement of vocational programs to include more female population.

The female population has an opportunity to participate in educational programs. It is very difficult to include the female population in the Baker's Program because the jail kitchen crew requires 7 inmates and we do not have sufficient staff to supervise males and females in the kitchen together. The configuration of the jail also inhibits the ability to allow female inmates to participate in certain programs during time of increased traffic. The kitchen staff is male due to the number of inmates staff has to draw from. When assigning the Kitchen crew we must not only consider gender but also classification, and medical issues associated with the inmate. These inmates have access to kitchen utensils, including knives, and equipment. The jail currently houses a maximum of 14 female inmates (the current number is 10, 2 of which would be eligible to work in the kitchen) compared to the maximum male population of 93 inmates (the current number is 77). The jail is exploring other vocational programs that could include female inmates but the size of the facility and funding are current roadblocks.

6. Communicate to inmates the use of the Legal Research Fund.

The housing and central control officers help guide the inmates through the request process. The Legal Research Forms are available in both the Housing and Central Control areas. The jail is also currently updating the Inmate Orientation Manual and the updated version will include information on the Legal Research Services.

7. Communicate what outside resources are available to inmates for assistance with re-entry into society.

Re-entry resources are very limited in Siskiyou County. The jail contracts with the Siskiyou Training and Employment Program to provide educational services to inmates. By using an established public training entity it allows inmate to continue their education after release. Siskiyou County Behavioral Health also provides counseling services to inmates in custody. This contact while in custody helps ensure continued care after release.

8. Updating of jail statics on the county website.

The Sheriff's Information Technology staff has recently updated the website to include current jail information. The IT staff also integrated the California State Victim Notification Service to allow the public to view custody status of individuals and allow victims to be notified upon the release of individuals. The jail is also working with Siskiyou County Victim Witness and allied law enforcement agencies to promote the use of this system.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Riggins', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

RICK RIGGINS, Sheriff

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cc: Mr. Brian McDermott, County Administrator